GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3151
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2003
BAN ON ASBESTOS MINING
JAYABEN B. THAKKAR

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has lifted ban on mining of Asbestos after ruling by the Supreme Court; and

(b) if not, the reasons for importing the same from other countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS)

(a) Asbestos is being mined in the areas already held under mining lease. However, in view of the hazardous effect of asbestos mining on health of all concerned, the Government had decided not to grant any new lease for mining of asbestos and minerals found alongwith asbestos and renewal of existing mining leases of asbestos. No changes have been made in this policy.

(b) The import of asbestos is mainly being allowed as domestic production of asbestos, particularly chrysotile asbestos is meagre to meet demand of manufacturing units of asbestos cement sheets, asbestos pressure pipes, asbestos cloth, brake lining etc. Domestically available amphibolite asbestos is not suitable for the above said purposes and it finds application mostly in thermal insulation and treatment of acids.